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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/775,964	02/10/2004	Jia-Hwa Fang	PP16502.015	1609
7590 08/06/2004				
Alisa Harbin, Esq. Chiron Corporation Intellectual Property - R440 P. O. Box 8097 Emeryville, CA 94662		EXAMINER FUBARA, BLESSING M		
		ART UNIT 1615		PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 08/06/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/775,964

Applicant(s)

FANG ET AL.

Examiner

Bléssing M. Fubara

Art Unit

1615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 34-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 34-36 and 42-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 37-40 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12/10/04 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02/10/04.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner acknowledges receipt of preliminary amendment (to the specification and the claims) and remarks filed 02/10/04. Claims 34-44 are pending.

Priority

1. Examiner also acknowledges this application as a divisional application claiming subject matter disclosed in prior Application No. 09/967462, filed 09/28/01; and which claims benefit of Provisional Application no. 60/236077 filed 09/28/00.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed 02/10/04 as been considered for the US patent and the non-patent literature and the foreign patent references have not been considered because they are not in the electronic file. However, applicants indicated that the references were submitted in prior application. The non-patent literature references and the foreign patents are scanned and are made part of the electronic file. Examiner, has thus not considered the non-US documents and respectfully requests applicants to submit those non-US documents including the non-patent literature references and the foreign patents so that they can be scanned and made part of the electronic file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 34, 35 and 42-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by LEVY et al. (US 6,395,253).

LEVY discloses preparation of microspheres that contain DNA or RNA as the bioactive agent (column 4, lines 31, 54 and 55). LEVY prepares a double emulsion of water-in-oil-in-water emulsion by using a condensing agent in one phase and the method comprises the steps of : “(a) dissolving at least one polymer in a water-immiscible organic solvent to yield an organic phase; (b) dissolving a polyanionic bioactive agent in aqueous solution to yield a first aqueous phase; (c) emulsifying the organic and first aqueous phases to yield a first milky emulsion; (d) dissolving a condensing agent in aqueous solution to yield a second aqueous phase; (e) emulsifying the first milky emulsion and the second aqueous phase to yield a second milky emulsion; and (f) removing the organic solvent from the second milky emulsion to yield microspheres containing condensed polyanionic bioactive agent. The removal of the organic solvent in the final step is preferably by means of evaporation.” DNA and RNA are macromolecules and are polynucleotides. The concept of microspheres meets the microparticle limitation. LEVY meets the limitations of the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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5. Claims 36 and 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over LEVY et al. (US 6,395,253).

LEVY is discussed above. LEVY is silent on ration of lactide to glycolide. There is however no demonstration by applicants that the recited ration provides unusual results. There is no demonstration that the cross-filtration step performed after removing the organic solvent provides unusual results since filtration is one of the steps in LEVY. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to prepare an emulsion according to LEVY. One having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to include lactide-glycolide polymer as a condensing agent for the DNA or RNA by using the lactide-glycolide having a ratio of lactide to glycolide that would be effective to provide the condensing effect to produce the microsphere.

6. Claims 37-40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The prior art does not disclose the weight ratio of detergent to polymer in the amounts recited in these claims.

7. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicants' cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicants may become aware in the specification.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Blessing M. Fubara whose telephone number is (571) 272-0594. The examiner can normally be reached on 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Monday to Friday).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman K. Page can be reached on (571) 272-0602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Blessing Fubara
Patent Examiner
Tech. Center 1600

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blessing Fubara", is written over the printed name of the examiner.